

For Agenda Item 3 only

Mrs Eltha WONG	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service
Ms Chloe CHOW	Social Worker, Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service
Ms Fion CHOW	District Director, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council
Ms Yannie TANG	Unit-in-charge, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council

Absent with apologies

Dr Timothy CHAN

Dr LEUNG Nai-kong

Matters Arising

Members noted that-

- (a) the Child Development Matching Fund Limited had been incorporated. Two committees would be set up to oversee fund-raising activities and to support the recruitment and training of mentors for Child Development Fund (CDF) projects respectively; and
- (b) CDMF would only provide financial support to the operating NGOs as a last resort. The operating NGOs of the second batch CDF projects would still be required to raise funds for matching the targeted savings of participating children. The applicants of the second batch CDF projects would be required to include fund raising plans in their proposals. Priority would be given to applicants which had already secured matching contribution.

Item (1): First batch of CDF pioneer projects – Reports by Operating NGOs

2. Members were briefed of the details and progress of the CDF pioneer projects on Hong Kong Island and in Tung Chung respectively.
3. Members appreciated the efforts made by the operating NGOs. They also noted that -
 - (a) the instructors for financial management training programmes were qualified financial planners who had rich experience in giving talks on such topics to schools and religious organisations. One of them was a former social worker;
 - (b) apart from regular face-to-face contacts, some mentors took the initiative to arrange other activities for their mentees, e.g. visits to the mentors' work places;
 - (c) support of schools was crucial for the recruitment of children;
 - (d) large corporations/organisations could help them recruit mentors; and
 - (e) while the operating NGOs welcomed ethnic minorities to join their projects, none of the participating children and mentors of the two pioneer projects were ethnic minorities.

Item (2): Progress Report on the Implementation of the Child Development Fund

(A) Pioneer Projects [SCCDF Paper 3/2009]

4. Members were briefed of the progress of the first batch CDF pioneer projects and noted that, as at 22 October 2009 -
 - (a) only five out of 750 participating children (0.67%) had dropped out due to engagement in full-time/part-time employment or family problem;
 - (b) only nine participating children (1.2%) had set/adjusted their savings targets to below \$200 per month;
 - (c) 14 participating children had received assistance from the emergency funds of the operating NGOs for 53 times in total;

- (d) 18 out of about 690 mentors (2.6%) had dropped out due to work pressure or their leaving the companies which partnered with the operating NGOs;
- (e) two strategic partners of the CDF, viz. the Centum Charitas Foundation and the Lions Clubs International District 303 - Hong Kong and Macau, China, organised a total of 41 enterprise visits for the participating children in the summer of 2009, including eight visits to Hong Kong owned manufacturing facilities in the Guangdong Province. These visits were well received by the NGOs and the participating children. The participants recommended that similar visits be organised in future; and
- (f) most of the training programmes were organised by the operating NGOs themselves.

(B) Task Force on Consultancy Study

5. Members noted that the First Interim Report of the study submitted by the Consulting Team (CT), which covered the overall performance of the seven pioneer projects at the initial stage and the profile of project participants, was considered by the Task Force on Consultancy Study (TFCS) at its meeting on 28 August 2009. The CT made 28 recommendations, mostly on operational issues. The CT would further refine its recommendations taking into account TFCS members' comments and project experiences.

6. Members also noted that, at the meeting on 27 October 2009, TFCS members had commented on the initial findings and observations to be included in the Second Interim Report. TFCS would examine the Second Interim Report in detail at its next meeting.

Visit to Taipei [SCCDF Paper 4/2009]

7. Members noted that five TFCS members visited Taipei from 23 to 25 September 2009 to gain first-hand information on the asset-based programmes implemented in Taiwan. Members noted that-

- (a) different asset-based programmes had been tried out in Taiwan over the years. The earliest programmes targeted low-income households but current programmes mainly targeted youngsters and children from low-income families;

- (b) the size of individual projects in Taiwan was smaller than that of the CDF pioneer projects. For example, the NGO-run programmes served 10 to 15 participants only in each city/county every year, whereas the Government-run programmes used to provide 100 places. It was worth noting that for the government-run programme rolled out in 2008 which was expanded to provide 300 places, only about 200 participants were recruited. There was no plan to fill up the vacancies;
- (c) there was no mentorship element in the Taiwan programmes; guidance and counselling services for the participants were provided by social workers;
- (d) for the government-run programmes, participation of parents was a key component; and
- (e) participants were allowed to use their targeted savings for implementing their personal plans before completion of the programmes.

(C) Task Force on Promotion of Child Development Fund

8. Members noted that, at its meeting on 10 September 2009, the Task Force on Promotion endorsed the draft Guidebook for Mentors of the CDF and the proposed promotion strategy for the second batch CDF projects.

Item (3): Guidebook for Mentors of the Child Development Fund [SCCDF Paper 5/2009]

9. Members endorsed the English version of the Guidebook. The Chinese version of the Guidebook would be prepared and the Guidebook would be distributed to the mentors through the operating NGOs

Item (4) : Second Batch of the Child Development Fund Projects [SCCDF Paper 6/2009]

10. Members noted and endorsed the proposed framework as well as the promotion strategy for the second batch CDF projects. They also agreed that -

- (a) the general principle of giving priority to children aged between 14 and 16 could be relaxed if necessary, having regard to the demographics and special circumstance of the individual districts;

- (b) promotional efforts targeting large corporations/organisations should be stepped up to solicit their support and encourage them to mobilise their staff to serve as mentors;
- (c) promotional efforts targeting parents should be strengthened as parents played a crucial role in motivating their children to participate in the CDF projects;
- (d) schools should be one of the main targets of promotion; and
- (e) clear guideline should be provided for calculating the mentor-mentee ratio in case a mentor served in both first batch and second batch CDF projects.

11. Members also noted that the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) would approach the chairmen/vice chairmen of the schools/principals' associations to solicit their support to the CDF.

12. Members also noted that, in view of the time required for inviting and vetting NGO applications, it would be difficult to advance the recruitment of participating children for the second batch projects. However, successful NGO applicants would be informed once they were selected so that they could start preparing for the recruitment of project participants and could launch publicity programmes as soon as possible.

Item (5) : Any Other Business

13. Members noted that a research assistant of the CT had lost a USB thumb drive which contained the personal data of CDF participants and other persons, and the thumb drive was subsequently recovered. They also noted that the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) had investigated the incident and would submit the investigation report to LWB shortly. Members agreed that the incident should be followed up by TFCS.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
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